

88

NNNN

RTTUZYUW RUTLAAA0636 0821821-UUUU--RUADFBA RUAOFBA RUHHFBA.
ZNR UUUUU ZZH ZYN
R 221820Z MAR 76
FM FBIS WASHDC
TO RUADFBA/FBIS TOKYO
RUAOFBA/FBIS OKINAWA JAPAN
RUHHFBA/FBIS BANGKOK THAILAND
FBWA
BT

COV 11-03
PTI

UNCLAS

890 457 943 [REDACTED] FROM

STAT

STAT

[REDACTED] WA313

REF BK261, WA263 ON PTI/SAMACHAR:

1. 20-25 PERCENT SUBSCRIPTION HIKE IS TOO MUCH FOR WHAT WE ARE CURRENTLY GETTING FROM PTI AND WE DO NOT PLAN RENEWAL OF THE CONTRACT.

2. UNOFFICIALLY, BANGKOK/OKINAWA WILL CONTINUE TO PRINT PTI/SAMACHAR FOR BACKGROUND AND THE OCCASIONAL FLASH ITEM. IN SEPTEMBER WE WILL AGAIN LOOK AT CONTENT AND STRUCTURE TO DETERMINE IF SUBSCRIPTION IS NECESSARY.

3. WE WILL REMIND WIRE AND DAILY REPORT THAT PTI/SAMACHAR MATERIAL WILL BE IN THE FOUO CATEGORY BEGINNING 1 JULY. BUREAUS SHOULD CONSIDER WHETHER RESTRICTED FILING TO AREA LATERAL SERVICE CONSUMERS MIGHT BE DESIRABLE DURING JULY-SEPTEMBER EVALUATION PERIOD. 22/1824Z MAR

BT

#0636

*Hold off action
until Monday*

RTTUZYUW RUHHFBA1461 0790531-00000-0RUTLAAB;

ZNR 00000 ZZ4 ZY4

R 190530Z MAR 76

FM FBIS BANGKOK

TO RUTLAAB/FBIS WASHDC

RUADPBA/FBIS OKINAWA JAPAN

RUADPBA/FBIS TOKYO JAPAN

FBBK

BT

UNCLAS RUHH

0870 774 229 [REDACTED] (PT)

FROM [REDACTED] BK 261

REF TK391; WA263 ON PTI WE ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH HEADQUARTERS' ASSESSMENT OF PTI/SAMACHAR COVERAGE; THIS SERVICE IS CURRENTLY PROVIDING LITTLE THAT CANNOT BE OBTAINED FROM THE RADIO AND/OR ISI EXCEPT THE OCCASIONAL FLASH ITEM; AGREE THAT A 20-25 PERCENT INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTION RATE WOULD BE TOO MUCH FOR WHAT WE GET; ESPECIALLY IF THE OCCASIONAL FLASH ITEM COULD STILL BE PROVIDED AS ANNEX MATERIAL;

HOWEVER, AS YOU NOTE, SAMACHAR'S FUTURE STATUS IS AN UNKNOWN; WHILE I'M INCLINED TO BELIEVE IT WILL PROBABLY BECOME A DE FACTO GOVERNMENT NEWS AGENCY AFTER MERGER IS COMPLETED; THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT WITH ANY DEGREE OF CERTAINTY GIVEN THE PRESENT INDIAN POLITICAL SCENE; NOR CAN WE HAVE ANY REAL IDEA OF WHAT THE FILE WILL BE LIKE AT THAT TIME; FOR THIS REASON I WOULD RECOMMEND POSTPONING ANY ACTION ON RENEWAL UNTIL 1 OCTOBER BY WHICH TIME THE MERGER SHOULD BE COMPLETED AND WE SHOULD HAVE A GOOD IDEA OF THE VALUE

OF THE SAMACHAR FILE; 19/0542Z MAR

BT

#1461

1. *CSB*
2. *Stan CB*
3. *Cov 11-03*

STAT
STAT

01

RITUZYUW RUTLAAA0498 0771509-UUUU--RUADFBA RUAOFBA.

ZNR UUUUU ZZH ZYN

R 171458Z MAR 76

FM FBIS WASHDC

TO RUADFBA/FBIS TOKYO JAPAN

RUAOFBA/FBIS OKINAWA JAPAN

FBWA

BT

UNCLAS

887 445

WA261

STAT

REF TK391 ON PRESS SERVICE CONTRACTS: WE HAVE ASKED BANGKOK FOR
EVALUATION OF PTI PRODUCT AND WILL GET BACK TO YOU ON THIS AS SOON
AS WE CAN. CONCUR ON KYODO INCREASE. 17/1511Z MAR

BT

#0498

1. Stan sm
2. Cov 11-03 ✓
3. Cov 11-04 ✓

NNNN

24

RITUZYUW RUTLAAA0500 0771513-UUUU--RUADFBA RUAOFBA RUHHFBA.

ZNR UUUUU ZZH ZYN

R 171500Z MAR 76

FM FBIS WASHDC

1. Stan
2. Cor 11-03 ✓

TO RUADFBA/FBIS TOKYO JAPAN

RUAOFBA/FBIS OKINAWA JAPAN

RUHHFBA/FBIS BANGKOK THAI

FBWA

BT

UNCLAS

888 447 936 [] FROM

STAT

[] WA263

STAT

REF TK391 ON PTI RENEWAL: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON CURRENT VALUE OF SAMACHAR/PTI COVERAGE. INITIAL REACTION HERE IS THAT 20-25 PERCENT INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTION COST IS TOO STEEP FOR WHAT WE GET. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF COVERAGE PATTERN IS THAT DELHI DOMESTIC AND DELHI ISI PROVIDE PROMPT AND FULLER REPORTAGE, BUT THERE IS THE ODD OCCASION WHEN PTI GETS A FLASH ITEM OUT SLIGHTLY AHEAD OF THE RADIO. IF THIS IS STILL THE CASE, WE WOULD LEAN TOWARD DROPPING SUBSCRIPTION. IF PTI FLASH REPORTING STILL HAS LIMITED MERIT, THEN BUREAU COULD PRINT REGULARLY FOR THIS PURPOSE AND ANY FLASH ITEMS WOULD BE TREATED AS ANNEX MATERIAL BY WIRE AND DAILY REPORT. IF YOU ARE NOT SURE AT THIS POINT, AN ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO POSTPONE RENEWAL UNTIL BEGINNING OF FY77 ON 1 OCTOBER, USING INTERIM PERIOD FOR THOROUGH STUDY. UNKNOWN FACTORS AT THIS TIME ARE WHETHER SAMACHAR WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME DE FACTO GOVERNMENT NEWS AGENCY OR MERGER WILL RESULT IN FIRST-CLASS NON-GOVERNMENT NEWS AGENCY SUPPLYING VALUABLE REPORTAGE. 17/1522Z MAR

BT

#0500

NNNN